

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 09171 250701Z

21 11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 /186 W

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R 241615Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5299

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE

SUBJ: ZAIRIAN-BELGIAN BILATERAL TALKS

SUMMARY: BELGIAN EMBASSY IS PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF
OCTOBER 18-22 MINISTERIAL TALKS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE DEPARTED
KINSHASA OCTOBER 24 AFTER BUSY WEEK DURING WHICH HE LED
BELGIAN DELEGATION IN SEMI-ANNUAL TALKS WITH GOZ, HAD
LONG COVERSATION WITH MOBUTU, AND PRESIDED AT MEETING
OF SUBSAHARAN BELGIAN CHIEF OF MISSION. JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ISSUED OCT 22 STRESSED CORDIALITY OF TALKS. IT
SAID BELGIAN AID IS TO BE STEADILY REVIEWED IN LIGHT
OF ZAIRIAN PRIORITIES; GOB WILL HENCEFORTH HELP PAY FOR
PRE-INVESTMENT STUDIES; AND FURTHER STUDY WILL BE GIVEN
TO AN AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL INVESTMENT GUARANTEES.
NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN EARLY 1974 IN BELIGUM.

2. BELGIUM EMBASSY TELLS US THIS MEETING, THIRD IN
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 09171 250701Z

SERIES INITIATED BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HARMEL IN

1972, WAS MARKED BY CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES. GOB AGREED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PENSION PAYMENTS TO ZAIRIAN VETRANS. IN RESPON TO MOBUTU'S PLEA IN HIS OCT 4 UNGA SPEECH, GOB OFFERED TO RETURN MANY ZAIRIAN ART TREASURES HELD IN BELGIAN OFFICIAL COLLECTIONS. HAVING IN MIND MOBUTU'S SWEEPING CRITICISM OF FOREIGN AID IN HIS UNGA SPEECH, BELGIANS ASSURED ZAIRIAN COUNTERPARTS THAT THRUST AND CONTENT OF BELGIAN AID PROGRAMS HERE COULD BE ALTERED AT ANY TIME BY CONSULTATION IN STANDING MIXED COMMISSION ON COOPERATION. ZAIRIAN SIDE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS, AND WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF BELGIAN AID.

3. BELGIAN EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT GOB IS PLEASED WITH INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THESE SEMI-ANNUALL BILATERAL MEETINGS BECAUSE THEY HELP ASSURE WORKING VISIT OF BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO KINSHASA AT LEAST ANNUALLY. HE SAID ZAIRIAN SIDE GREETED BELGIAN PROMISE TO RETURN ART WORKS WITH UNDISGUISED JOY.

4. BELGIAN MINISTER FOR COOPERATION PETRY HAD SEPARATE AUDIENCE WITH MOBUTU OCT 21 WHILE FONMIN VISITING INGA AND THEN DEPARTED ABRUPTLY FOR BRUSSELS SAME DAY. REASON FOR DEPARTURE BECAME APPARENT WHEN SHE DROPPED FROM GOVT DURING RESHUFFLE ANNOUNCED OCT 23.

5. COMMENT: PRESS ACCOUNTS OF FIRST DAY OF VAN ELSLANDE'S MEETINGS IN KINSHASA WITH STATE COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS NGUZA HINTED AT TOUGH ZAIRIAN DEMANDS FOR COMPLETE REVAMPING OF BELGIAN AID. APPARENTLY THESE DEMANDS DID NOT MATERIALIZE. THIS MAY BE DUE IN PART TO GOODWILL GENERATED A.BY BELGIAN DECISION TO SETTLE LONG-STANDING DIFFERENCES OVER VETRANS PENSIONS (WHICH GOB HAS NEVER PAID), AND B. GENEROUS OFFER TO RETURN WORKS OF ART. END COMMENTT. VANCE

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